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1 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT: D/(S)NRO Annual Report to PFIAB: Comments
of Chairman, COMOR

1. Herewith in pursuance of your request are my comments on the D/(S)NRO annual report to PFIAB.
2. The first paragraph is accurate. The second paragraph while not inaccurate does not include the many deliberations of the Board which bear upon the way in which the CORONA M and J programs should be employed to meet changing situations, both in operations and intelligence. Nor does the paragraph reflect the Board's views as reflected by the DCI on the number of J and G missions required annually. It is true these are near, not long, term matters.
3. The (S)NRO statement on satellite reconnaissance requirements as stated in paragraph 2 indicates a lack of knowledge of the target review process. This in itself is surprising because (S)NRO has an observer/consultant who attends Photo Working Group meetings. Therefore, indeed, weekly meetings of the PWG; however, if mission results are available and need attention more frequently to guide subsequent missions, the PWG is not bound to a weekly schedule. Furthermore, the PWG does not simply produce targeting priority lists for one system. Through its membership it has the capability for considering all requirements in the framework of Priority National Intelligence Objectives and its recommendations for satellite targeting as well as for manned reconnaissance targeting are based on the priority weighed carefully against the ability of each system to meet the full requirement. As indicated at the end of (S)NRO's paragraph 2, the PWG and COMOR do also pay considerable attention to any improving capabilities of systems and change targeting accordingly.

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4. I attach a statement on the same question which I provided the DCI on 29 October of what in fact has been done.

5. It is true, as we all know, that long-term requirements for satellite photo reconnaissance have been aborning since a year ago July. The inactivity of COMOR from September 1963 to August - September 1964 in both the photo and SIGINT fields was because of the holddown by Secretary Gilpatric and continued by Secretary Vance. They required that DOD requirements be submitted to and approved by that office before being transmitted to the Board. (Also attached is a memorandum from me to the Director which explained this.) I object to the paragraph at the bottom of page 16 which reads: "In the absence of similar statements of near term needs for satellite reconnaissance, the COMOR/USID have adopted the practice of ad hoc tasking the (S)NRO as described above." I do not consider the present practice ad hoc at all, and furthermore, if the Board is to maintain constant control, as it desires to do, there will have to be continual updating of requirements (or tasking, as you will) to insure that the operations produce on the targets desired. I would think it totally unacceptable to provide a general statement of requirements for near term satellite reconnaissance to be left then to the interpretation of the operator from week to week as he sees fit.

6. In conclusion, there is no question but what long-term requirements, meaning from 1967 approximately to 1972, are lacking. COMOR is currently struggling with a statement of requirements. It now appears that COMOR will have to submit the DIA and CIA views to the Board for them to resolve because at the moment the Committee is making no progress toward resolution.

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James Q. Reber
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachments:

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Copy 1 DDS&T
2 DDS&T
3 Assistant Director, OSA
4 C/Special Projects Staff
5 Chairman, PWG
6 SA(COMOR)/DDS&T
7 SA(COMOR)/DDS&T
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SA (COMOR)/DDS&T 03/12 25X1

20 March 1964

MEM RANDUM FOR:

Chairman
United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT:

Status Report on COMOR Consideration
of Long-Range Requirements for Satellite
Reconnaissance

REFERENCE:

USIB-D-41.14/36 (COMOR-D-13/9)
25 April 1963

1. The following is for your information.
2. You will recall that the Board referred the subject papers to the D/NRO for comment at its 24 April meeting. He responded on 30 October 1963 with the attached letter (Tab A).
3. At about the same time you instructed the Chairman of COMOR to talk with Dr. McMillan to see how we might develop a better understanding so that the intelligence agencies could present in the most useful way their requirements. Following a discussion with Dr. McMillan and Mr. Kiefer (see Tab B), Mr. Kiefer was present at two meetings of COMOR and some progress was made toward a better understanding.
4. However, these discussions were suspended at the request of the DIA member of COMOR. He advised COMOR that Mr. Gilpatric had instructed the Defense Intelligence Agency to submit its long-range requirements to him for approval before being discussed outside the Department of Defense. I was subsequently advised by the DIA member that Mr. Gilpatric had returned the requirements for further revision and the present situation is that DIA is still not prepared to discuss long-range requirements at COMOR.

James Q. Reber
Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachments:

Tabs A and B (w/orig only)

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